

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DACCA 01079 230545Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
STR-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 /043 W
-----125821 230845Z /11

R 230205Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8167
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS DACCA 1079

PASS USDA

PASS AID/ASIA/BIS

E.O. 11652 : N/A
TAGS : EPAP, BG
SUBJECT : PROJECTED WHEAT PRODUCTION IN BD DURING FY 1978

1. SUMMARY: WHEAT PRODUCTION IN BD WILL RISE TO 351,000 TONS DURING FY 1978, ACCORDING TO THE BANGLADESH AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (BADC). THE INCREASE IS ATTRIBUTED TO EXPANDED WHEAT ACREAGE AND MORE WIDESPREAD USE OF IMPROVED HIGH YIELDING VARIETIES (HYV'S). THERE REMAINS CONSIDERABLE SCOPE FOR EXPANSION OF WHEAT CULTIVATION DURING THE DRY WINTER SEASON, AND THE BDG HAS SET A ONE-MILLION-ACRE TARGET FOR WHEAT ACREAGE (MORE THAN DOUBLE CURRENT AMOUNT). HOWEVER BADC HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE LESS THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE COUNTRY'S REQUIREMENTS FOR HYV SEED, AND RESULTING SEED SHORTAGES HAVE HELD WHEAT PRODUCTION FAR BELOW ITS POTENTIAL. PEND SUMMARY.

2. THE BANGLADESH AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (BADC) HAS PROJECTED THAT WHEAT PRODUCTION WILL REACH 351,000 TONS DURING THE 1977-78 SEASON (NOVEMBER TO APRIL), AN INCREASE OF 27 PERCENT OVER THE 255,000 TONS HARVESTED LAST YEAR, AND MORE THAN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DACCA 01079 230545Z

TRIPLE THE 113,000 TONS PRODUCED IN 1971-72. THE ANTICIPATED OUTPUT IS BASED ON A 12 PERCENT INCREASE IN ACREAGE DEVOTED TO WHEAT CULTIVATION (450,000 ACRES VSRSUS 397,000 ACRES LAST YEAR) AND INCREASED YIELDS STEMMING FROM MORE WIDESPREAD USE OF IMPROVED HIGH YIELDING VARIETIES (HYV'S). ACREAGE UNDER HYV'S EXPANDED FROM 288,000 ACRES A YEAR AGO TO AN ESTIMATED 400,000 ACRES THIS SEASON.

3. WHEAT IS GROWN MAINLY IN THE WEST AND NORTHWEST PARTS OF BD, IN AREAS WHERE WATER SUPPLY DURING THE WINTER MONTHS IS UNCERTAIN (WHEAT REQUIRES ONLY ONE-THIRD TO ONE-FOURTH AS MUCH WATER AS RICE). BECAUSE WHEAT PROVIDES MORE DEPENDABLE YIELDS AT LOWER COST IN THESE AREAS, THE BDG HAS DESIGNATED IT A PRIORITY CROP IN ITS AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH EFFORTS, AND HAS SET A TARGET OF INCREASING WHEAT ACREAGE TO ONE MILLION ACRES. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT TWO TO THREE TIMES THAT AMOUNT (CURRENTLY DEVOTED TO OTHER CROPS OR LYING FALLOW) COULD BE CULTIVATED IN WHEAT.

4. ASIDE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS (E.G. LENGTH OF GROWING SEASON,

WATER SUPPLY) AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS SUCH AS THE PRICE OF WHEAT RELATIVE TO RICE, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CONSTRAINT UPON WHEAT ACREAGE HAS BEEN THE LIMITED SUPPLY OF HYV WHEAT SEEDS. DOMESTIC SEED PRODUCTION HAS BEEN HAMPERED IN THE PAST BY POOR SEED QUALITY AND INADEQUATE CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH SEED FARMERS. CONSEQUENTLY MOST OF THE SEED DISTRIBUTED BY BADC MUST BE IMPORTED. TWO YEARS AGO USAID FINANCED BD PURCHASES OF 1,200 TONS OF HYV SEED; DURING FY 1977 AND FY 1978 THE BDG BOUGHT SEED WITH ITS OWN FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

5. RECENT USAID FIELD REPORTS INDICATE THAT QUALITY CONTROL AND PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENTS WITH SEED FARMERS HAVE GREATLY IMPROVED, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DACCA 01079 230545Z

AND THAT PROSPECTS FOR WHEAT PRODUCTION OF THE MAGNITUDE PROJECTED BY THE BADC ARE GOOD. BADC DISTRIBUTED 4,296 TONS OF HYV SEED THIS YEAR, OF WHICH 1,325 TONS WAS PROCURED DOMESTICALLY. THIS AMOUNT, WHILE MORE THAN DOUBLE THE 1,900 TONS DISTRIBUTED LAST YEAR, WAS INSUFFICIENT TO MEET THE DEMAND, AS INDICATED BY THE WIDE DISPARITY BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND MARKET PRICES. THE MARKET PRICE FOR HYV SEED WAS EIGHT TO TEN TAKA PER SEER (2.05 LBS.) AS COMPARED TO TK. 3.5 PER SEER UNDER BADC'S DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.

6. ALTHOUGH INADEQUATE SEED SUPPLY CONTINUES TO HOLD WHEAT ACREAGE ITS POTENTIAL, IMPROVEMENT ON THE GAINS REGISTERED THIS YEAR IN DOMESTIC SEED PRODUCTION WOULD GO FAR TOWARD EASING THE TIGHT SUPPLY SITUATION. NEXT SEASON BADC PLANS TO DISTRIBUTE 6,000 TONS OF SEEDS, A 23 PERCENT INCREASE BUT STILL ONLY ONE-THIRD OF THE COUNTRY'S TOTAL REQUIREMENTS. MORE PROGRESS IN PRODUCTION, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION OF SEED IS NECESSARY BEFORE BD FARMERS BEGIN CULTIVATING WHEAT ON A LARGE SCALE BASIS. BERGESEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DACCA01079
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780083-0826
Format: TEL
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780224/aaaaatse.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7d699ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3510008
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROJECTED WHEAT PRODUCTION IN BD DURING FY 1978
TAGS: EPAP, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7d699ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014